



ESF 15 Business / Nonprofit Update

Produced by Emergency Support Function 15 – External Affairs

December 2013

ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR ESF 15

Council of Governments, Stakeholders Spur Historic FCC Rule to Ensure Reliable 9-1-1 Service

In a historic action advocated by the Council of Governments, its stakeholders and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) earlier this month adopted rules to help ensure that 9-1-1 calls across the nation are delivered during disasters. The action followed regional studies documenting the significant loss of 9-1-1 service in Northern Virginia during the June 2012 Derecho storm. As a result, all telephone companies that provide 9-1-1 service must certify annually that they have implemented best practices including audits of their circuits, maintenance of central office backup power and reliable network monitoring systems. Verizon, the service provider in much of metropolitan Washington, has acknowledged its role in the 2012 outages. The FCC adopted the recommendations developed by the Council, the Virginia State Corporation Commission and many Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), the call centers which operate the 9-1-1 systems in Virginia. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, who called for the Council's investigation of the 9-1-1 outages across the region, said the FCC action is historic and welcome. "Residents of Virginia and every state for that matter, can now be confident that 9-1-1 service will be properly maintained and there when they need it. Our work combined the great technical knowledge of the call centers in Northern Virginia with the influence of the Council of Governments and the Commonwealth to make important progress for the entire country." The FCC action also was called "the greatest overhaul of 9-1-1 resiliency requirements in the history of 9-1-1," by Steven Souder, Fairfax County's Director of Public Safety Communications. In addition to requiring regular audits and annual certifications of 9-1-1 service, the FCC rules now will impose deadlines and more specific requirements for notifying 9-1-1 call centers of outages. The Commission also said it can follow up with service providers to address any deficiencies found in the certification process.

33 Resilient Cities Announced by Rockefeller Foundation

Earlier this month, the Rockefeller Foundation named the first group of cities selected through the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge – cities who have demonstrated a dedicated commitment to building their own capacities to prepare for, withstand and bounce back rapidly from shocks and stresses. Since the challenge was announced on the foundation's 100th birthday – May 14 – the response has been enormous, with more than 1,000 registrations and nearly 400 formal applications from cities around the world. Each city was asked to present a clear and compelling description of how they are approaching and planning for resilience to decrease vulnerabilities, and after careful review of the applications, a panel of esteemed judges recommended the first set of 33 cities for the 100 Resilient Cities Network. Check out the full list at <http://100resilientcities.rockefellerfoundation.org/blog/entry/33-resilient-cities-announced>. There were only 11 jurisdictions in the U.S. that made the list; the only Virginia jurisdiction was Norfolk.

The 2013 National Health Security Preparedness Index Now Available

First-of-its kind U.S. Preparedness Index Shows Great Strengths and Challenges in Protecting Nation's Health During Disasters

The Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and 20 development partners, announced this month the release of the National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHSP), a new way to measure and advance the nation's readiness to protect people during a disaster. The 2013 Index results, which will be updated annually, revealed great strengths as well as challenges in our nation's preparedness. Results can be explored in three views that offer users different ways to examine the data and spark conversations about advancing preparedness. A results summary is also available. <http://www.nhspl.org/content/2013-national-health-security-preparedness-index%E2%84%A2-now-available-0>
Results Summary: <http://www.nhspl.org/content/2013-national-nhspl-results-summary>



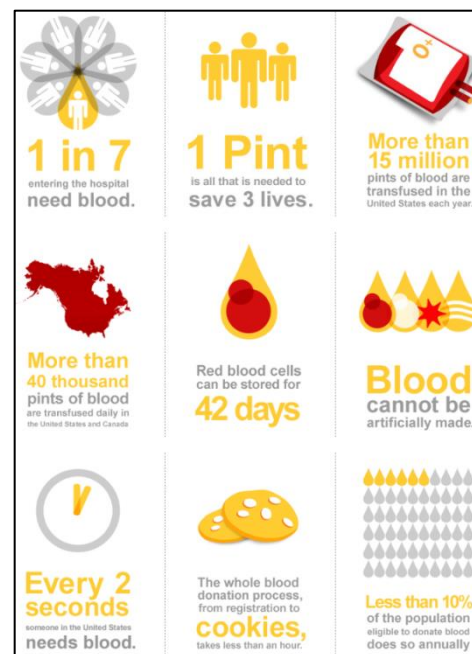
NIST Tornado Reports Urge New Standards

Nationally accepted standards for building design and construction, public shelters and emergency communications can significantly reduce deaths and the steep economic costs of property damage caused by tornadoes. That is the key conclusion of a 2-year technical investigation by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) into the impacts of the May 22, 2011, tornado that struck Joplin, Missouri. Based on findings from the Joplin investigation, NIST developed 16 recommendations for improving how buildings and shelters are designed, constructed and maintained in tornado-prone regions; and for improving the emergency communications that warn of imminent threat from tornadoes. All of these recommendations are backed by what the team observed in Oklahoma. The key recommendation proposed in the Joplin report is “the development and adoption of nationally accepted performance-based standards for the tornado-resistant design of buildings and infrastructure to ensure the resiliency of communities to tornado hazards.” This includes a call for designing and constructing essential buildings—such as hospitals and emergency operations centers – and infrastructure to remain operational in the event of a tornado. Following the public comment period on the draft Joplin study, NIST will issue a final report and then work with the appropriate code development organizations to use the study's recommendations to improve model building codes and lay the foundation for nationally accepted standards. NIST also will work with organizations representing state and local governments – including building officials – to encourage them to seriously consider implementing its recommendations. Comments on the draft Joplin report and recommendations must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, Jan. 6, 2014. Comments may be submitted via email to disaster@nist.gov or mailed to NIST Technical Investigation Joplin, 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 8611, Gaithersburg, Md. 20899-8611. http://www.nist.gov/el/building_materials/tornado-120313.cfm

Have You Given Blood Lately?

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), every two seconds someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion. Hospitals are constantly in need of blood to treat victims of traumas such as motor vehicle crashes and fires, and for patients undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and treatment for sickle cell diseases and other conditions. Learn more about donating blood. Meanwhile, America's Blood Centers report that less than 10 percent of the people in the U.S. who are eligible to donate blood do so annually. The American Red Cross emphasizes a particular need for O-negative or “universal” donors, whose blood can be given to people with all blood types. O-negative donations are crucial to saving lives during emergencies before a patient's blood type is known.

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/UCM219731.pdf>
<http://www.redcrossblood.org/learn-about-blood/blood-facts-and-statistics>
<http://www.americasblood.org/>



Protecting Critical Infrastructure from Cyber Attacks

Earlier this month, the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee introduced the National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2013. The legislation aims to strengthen the cybersecurity of the nation's 16 critical

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infrastructure sectors as well as the federal government by codifying, strengthening, and providing oversight of the cybersecurity mission of DHS.

http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/documents/12113_NCCIP_summary.pdf



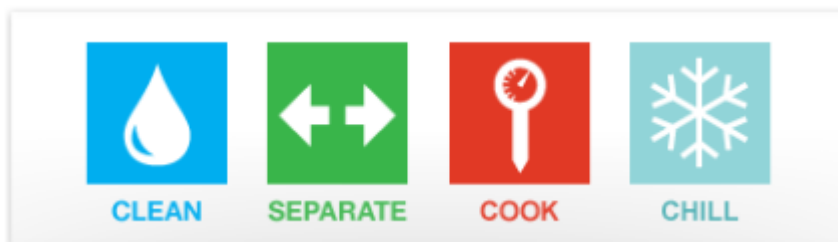
www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov

Forgetting About Food Safety is a Recipe for Disaster

Did you know that one in six Americans could get sick from food poisoning this year alone? Food poisoning not only sends more than 100,000 Americans to the hospital each year – it can also have long-term health consequences.

But following four simple steps can help keep your family safe from food poisoning at home. Symptoms of food poisoning include upset stomach, abdominal cramps, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and dehydration. Symptoms may range from mild to severe. Remember: “Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill.”

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/basics/index.html>



Cyber Hygiene

In this digital age, we rely on our computers and devices for so many aspects of our lives that the need to be proactive and vigilant to protect against cyber threats has never been greater. However, in order to be as secure as possible, we need to use good cyber hygiene – that is, making sure we are protecting and maintaining systems and devices appropriately and using cyber security best practices. Many key best practices are outlined in the Top 20 Critical Security Controls, managed by the Council on CyberSecurity (<http://www.counciloncybersecurity.org/>). These controls assist in mitigating the most prevalent vulnerabilities that often result in many of today's cyber security intrusions and incidents. The Center for Internet Security (CIS) provides free, PDF-formatted configuration guides (Benchmarks) -- <http://benchmarks.cisecurity.org/downloads/benchmarks/> -- that can be used to implement the Controls and improve cyber security. Among the best practice strategies is secure your wireless network. Before the days of wireless (Wi-Fi) home networks, it was rather easy to see who was linked into your home network; you could simply follow the wires. You wouldn't allow a stranger to connect to your network, so check to see who is connected to your wireless network. The first step is to lock down your wireless network with a strong password and encryption. This will prevent people who don't have the password from connecting to your network. While there are fewer wires to follow, you can still follow some digital breadcrumbs to see who is connected to your network. Connect to your router (for more information refer to the manufacturer's user guide) to see who the clients (the connected devices) are. Are there more devices connected to your network than you expect? If there are some devices you don't recognize, change your security settings and passwords. Don't forget about your printers, many of which can connect to your network and are Wi-Fi enabled.

Staying Safe When Outdoors

Many of us are entering the coldest time of the year. Cold temperatures make your body lose heat faster than it can be produced. This condition results in abnormally low body temperature, also known as hypothermia.

Hypothermia affects the brain, leaving the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This inability makes

hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it's happening. Victims of hypothermia are often:

- Seniors with inadequate heating, food or clothing.
- Babies sleeping in cold rooms.
- People who remain outdoors for long periods like the homeless, hikers or hunters.

In extreme cold, make outside trips as brief as possible to protect your health and safety. However, if you must be outside take a few special precautions:

- Dress warmly and in layers. A waterproof jacket will help you stay warm and dry if it starts to snow.
- Work slowly if you have to do heavy outdoor chores.
- Notify friends and family where you will be before you go hiking, camping or skiing.

Do not ignore shivering. It is an important first sign that the body is losing heat. Learn the other signs of hypothermia (<http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/hypothermia>) and how to care for someone who may be suffering from it before your next outdoor winter excursion.

Reprinted from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Dec. 18, 2013 edition.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/duringstorm/outdoorsafety.asp>

6 out of 10 American Households Do Not Have a Family Emergency Plan

As the New Year approaches, FEMA is reminding Americans to “Resolve to be Ready” in 2014. Taking simple steps to prepare now can make all the difference in the event of an emergency. Disasters can occur without warning and each and every family member needs to know what to do in case one does. Ready.gov/kids has all the info you need to start the conversation with your family including age-appropriate materials, template communications plans, emergency kit checklists and disaster fact sheets. This New Year, make sure every member of your family knows:

- Who to call.
- Where to meet.
- What to pack.

By making a resolution to take a few simple steps to prepare in advance, you can minimize the impact an emergency could have on your family, home or community. For more information visit Ready.gov/prepared2014 or follow Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/readygov> and Twitter @Readygov. For more information on the Ready campaign's privacy policies, visit www.Ready.gov/prepared2014.

PLANNING / PREPAREDNESS

National Health Security Preparedness Index Rates Virginia Above Average

The National Health Security Preparedness Index (NHSPI), released for the first time earlier this month, rates Virginia's readiness to protect people's health and safety during a disaster above the national average. The NHSPI was developed by the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and more than 20 other stakeholder organizations. The index, to be updated annually, relies on existing data sources and 128 measures to evaluate each state's capabilities and resources for response to emergencies such as hurricanes, terrorism, disease outbreaks and radiological events. The index is intended to help inform policy making and resource allocation, as well as establish benchmarks and mechanisms for tracking quality improvement. The results show only moderate variance among overall state levels of preparedness, but do highlight specific strengths and weaknesses in each state. While the overall score for the United States was 7.2 on a scale of 10, Virginia's state score was 7.9. The index noted particular strengths in all areas of health surveillance, as well as volunteer management and emergency public information and warning. The state scored slightly below average on overall surge management and just above on mental and behavioral healthcare, both areas of noted need for improvement nationally.

Reprinted from the Northern Virginia Hospital Alliance (NVHA) daily situational awareness brief email, Dec. 19.

<http://www.nhspi.org/content/press-releases> and <http://www.nhspi.org/content/results>

Strengthening Regional Resilience

The National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) provides the President of the United States with advice on the security and resilience of the critical infrastructure sectors and their functional systems, physical assets, and cyber networks. These critical infrastructure sectors span the U.S. economy. The NIAC has been tasked with improving the nation's resiliency by building and maintaining partnerships.

DHS Draft Report and Recommendations

<http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/niac-rrwg-report-final-review-draft-for-qbm.pdf>

Engineering Resilience: The Resilience STAR Home Pilot Project

A key priority of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is to work with state, local and private sector partners to make communities more resilient in the face of disasters. As part of that effort, DHS is undertaking a pilot project designed to promote building design that recognizes best practices that help make buildings more resilient. The initiative, the DHS Resilience STAR Home Pilot Project, will be a government-led, public-private initiative. Through the pilot project, DHS will work together with the private sector to engage homeowners, builders and contractors in communities at high risk for certain natural disasters to identify proactive steps to enhance the resilience of the homes. The project will allow the private sector to identify and designate residential homes that are voluntarily built or remodeled that could employ design features that are both affordable and proven to enhance resilience to disasters. The Resilience STAR designation, which is modeled after the Environmental Protection Agency's successful ENERGY STAR campaign, will be given to structures that are built to withstand damage from certain disasters, utilizing the standards and third-party verification process in the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety's (IBHS) FORTIFIED programs. The FORTIFIED standards are designed to improve the quality of residential construction and feature practical, meaningful solutions for new and existing homes throughout the United States. The first pilot project will take place in the next few months along the hurricane-prone Gulf Coast. DHS is currently soliciting applications from builders, contractors and homeowners who would like to participate in this project. For more information on the Resilience STAR Home Pilot Project, and to apply to participate, visit

<http://www.disastersafety.org/resilience-star/>. See link also at: <http://www.dhs.gov/blog/2013/11/18/engineering-resilience-resilience-startm-home-pilot-project>.

Reprinted from the Private Sector Update, Dec. 5, created and distributed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Private Sector Office. Written by Mike Kangior, director of Resilience Policy & Matt Fuchs, deputy director of Resilience Policy; originally published on the DHS blog (<http://www.dhs.gov/blog>).

Including Building Codes in the National Flood Insurance Program

A report published last month by FEMA presents findings of the impact, effectiveness, and feasibility of including widely used and nationally recognized building codes as part of the NFIP floodplain management criteria in response to the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. This report explains how bringing NFIP building standards up to date will decrease flood losses and flood insurance rates in the long term. The resource will help floodplain managers and building officials understand impacts of the new statutory potential future affiliation between building codes and the NFIP. It also explains long term benefits of this provision of BW12 in decreasing both flood losses and flood insurance rates, by bringing NFIP building standards up to date with hazard provisions of the I-codes.

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/85960>

Emergency Sing Off: Preparedness Song Makes the Message Stick

From gearing up for the zombie apocalypse to a flash mob encouraging readiness, promoting public preparedness has taken numerous creative forms. And now emergency managers in Virginia are getting vocal – by turning popular songs into catchy messages about what to include in an emergency kit and other useful information. Tanya Ferraro, medical reserve corps coordinator for two health districts in southwest Virginia, and Keith Dowler, regional health-care coordination center manager for the Near Southwest Preparedness Alliance, came up with the idea to turn popular songs into messages about preparedness over lunch before Thanksgiving. Ferraro said an hour later they had written the lyrics and recorded the video, which was soon posted on YouTube. "I am a big fan of using social media to engage people and teach people about disasters and make it interesting," she said.

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/training/Preparedness-Duet-Emergency-Message.html>

Video: <http://youtu.be/RrbXFusCXg4>

Song Lyrics:

I've never seen a snowfall look so fresh
I cut my teeth on cans of beans in the kitchen
When power's out at my address
Then I hunker down, no shelter envy

Cause in my kit's like flashlight, duct tape, whistle I can blow on
Band aids, first aid, extra medication,
We don't care, we're gonna shelter for days of three
But all my family's like candles, canned goods, bring in all the pets please
Food and water, a gallon per day for each
We don't care, we know we're not going anywhere

And we'll always be loyals (loyals)
Prepping runs in our blood
Shelter in place just works for us
Til we evacuate by bus
Let me be your schooler (schooler),
You can call me queen Bee
And baby I'll rule, I'll rule
Let me get you ready

My friends and I – we've got a code
We check on neighbors down the road, it's
a party
And everyone who knows us knows if they
build a kit
It won't cost much money

Cause in my kit's like flashlight, duct tape, whistle I can blow on
Band aids, first aid, extra medication,
We don't care, we're gonna shelter for days of three
But all my family's like candles, canned goods, bring in all the pets please
Food and water, a gallon per day for each
We don't care, we know we're not going anywhere

And we'll always be loyals (loyals)
Prepping runs in our blood
Shelter in place just works for us
Til we evacuate by bus
Let me be your schooler (schooler),
You can call me queen Bee
And baby I'll rule, I'll rule
Let me get you ready

Ooh ooh oh
We're sheltering for days of three
And snow ain't got nothin on me
Ooh ooh oh
Life is great on my homestead



We aren't running out for milk and bread

And we'll always be loyals (loyals)
Prepping runs in our blood
Shelter in place just works for us
Til we evacuate by bus
Let me be your schooler (schooler),
You can call me queen Bee
And baby I'll rule, I'll rule
Let me get you ready

Winterize Your Home

When you put on your winter weather gear to stay warm outside, colder temperatures can mean an increase in energy use to stay warm inside. If you prepare properly, heating your home doesn't have to break the bank. As the mercury dips, ready your abode for sweater weather by following these easy steps to winterize your home:

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic.
- Allow faucets to drip a little to prevent pipes from freezing.
- Cover windows with plastic to keep the cold air out.

You may choose to use indoor space heaters for added warmth. If not used properly, space heaters can be a very dangerous fire hazard. When purchasing a space heater, look for one that has an automatic shut-off or tip-over switch. Place the heater on a level surface away from high-traffic areas and flammable items such as curtains, bedding or furniture. To help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, make sure the room has enough ventilation. Get in the energy saving spirit by conducting a home energy assessment. See how much energy your home consumes and evaluate what measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient. Then, check out the "12 Days of Energy Savings" (<http://energy.gov/articles/12-days-energy-savings>) from the U.S. Department of Energy to learn things you can do to stay warm while saving money this winter.

Reprinted from the Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Dec. 4 edition, from FEMA

National Infrastructure Advisory Council Identifies Top Priorities, Risks in Disaster Resilience

The National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) has released a report on improving national resilience to disasters by identifying essential partnerships and current challenges across the U.S. The report details best practices including a case study on Superstorm Sandy and offers key recommendations to improve regional resilience. Partnerships on the "lifeline sectors," energy, water, transportation and communications were deemed a key factor in resilience, as well as integration of public alert and warning systems to include social media. To view the full report, go to <http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/niac-rrwg-report-final-review-draft-for-qbm.pdf>.

Winter Care for Your Car

So you've prepared your home for winter weather but what about your car? You can avoid many dangerous winter travel problems by planning ahead. Before you hit the road, have a mechanic check the following items on your vehicle:

- Antifreeze levels – ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and ignition system – terminal should be clean.
- Brakes – check for wear and fluid level.
- Tires – make sure they have adequate tread.

Changes in weather call for changes in your emergency supply kit. For winter weather, update the emergency kits in your vehicle with:

- Matches.
- Booster cables.
- Tow chain or rope.
- A fluorescent distress flag.

Need a quick and easy way to remember what items to check on your car each winter? Download the car maintenance checklist from the Centers for Disease Control (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/pdf/checklist->

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[prepare-car.pdf](#)).

Reprinted from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness e-Brief, Dec. 13 edition. Disclaimer: The federal government does not endorse any non-federal entities, organizations, services or products.

National Terrorism Advisory System

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) is a robust terrorism advisory system that provides timely information to the public about credible terrorist threats and replaces the former color-coded alert system. Under NTAS, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue detailed alerts to the public when the federal government receives information about a credible terrorist threat. NTAS alerts provide a concise summary of the potential threat including geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat, actions being taken to ensure public safety, as well as recommended steps that individuals, communities, business and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to a threat. NTAS Alerts will include a clear statement on the nature of the threat, which will be defined in one of two ways:

- "Elevated Threat": Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
- "Imminent Threat": Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Depending on the nature of the threat, alerts may be sent to law enforcement, distributed to affected areas of the private sector, or issued more broadly to the public through both official and social media channels – including a designated DHS webpage (www.dhs.gov/alerts), Facebook and via Twitter @NTASAlerts. NTAS alerts and posters will also be displayed in places such as transit hubs, airports and government buildings. NTAS threat alerts will be issued for a specific time period and will automatically expire. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or as a specific threat evolves. For more information on the National Terrorism Advisory System or to receive NTAS alerts, visit www.dhs.gov/alerts.

Winter Weather Safety Tip

Always use portable generators, camp stoves, barbecue and charcoal grills outside and 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents to prevent deadly CO poisoning.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/cofacts.asp>

Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN)

Get emergency alerts by email, as well as by text or pager. Sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean. Businesses can also register up to five people in their organizations – such as security officers – who can receive alerts and then share that information with their workforce.



MEDIA ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Weather Risk Management Should be Part of Companies' Overall Risk Management

Volatile weather activity is increasing around the world. While extreme events such as typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines or flood Cleopatra in Sardinia may capture the headlines, minor fluctuations in expected weather can have big impacts on business performance across a wide range of industries. A new report focuses on the growing importance of weather risks for businesses, highlighting the economic impact of fluctuating weather conditions and how companies can protect themselves, using new approaches to "weather risk management." Weather risk management products are



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already widely used in the United States, where they have become more readily accepted as a standard feature of companies' overall risk management.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20131204-weather-risk-management-should-be-part-of-companies-overall-risk-management>

IG Finds Holes in DHS's Cybersecurity

The Department of Homeland Security is leading the charge to bolster the country's porous digital defenses, but it's also struggled this year to safeguard its own systems against hackers and spies, according to its top watchdog. A recent report from the DHS inspector general reiterated that the agency for months failed to patch its systems regularly against known cybersecurity threats or scan its networks consistently, in real time, to keep out digital malefactors. Some at DHS even had been using an old, soon-to-be unsupported version of Microsoft Windows, according to the IG, whose conclusions are drawn from earlier studies issued throughout 2013. DHS also lagged in developing a more secure system to ensure the right employees are accessing the right data, the watchdog found. <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/12/inspector-general-department-homeland-security-cybersecurity-100554.html>

Terror Threat Highest in 5 U.S. Metros, Including D.C.

The threat of a large-scale terrorist attack in the United States is still high, and is concentrated in five high-profile metropolitan areas, according to a report by catastrophe modeling specialist Risk Management Solutions Inc., including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., in that order. In its "Quantifying U.S. Terrorism Risk" white paper, distributed early this month, the Newark-based company said the risk of a major attack is still high "and will remain so for the foreseeable future," as evidenced by 30 major plots that have led to convictions since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Certain types of attacks could cause almost unfathomable destruction, the study reported.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/blog/2013/12/terror-threat-highest-in-5-us-metros.html>

Top Six Security Threats for 2014

The Information Security Forum (ISF) has announced their forecast of the top six security threats global businesses will face in 2014. Key threats include BYOD trends in the workplace, data privacy in the cloud, brand reputational damage, privacy and regulation, cybercrime and the continued expansion of ubiquitous technology. "As we move into 2014, attacks will continue to become more innovative and sophisticated. Unfortunately, while organizations are developing new security mechanisms, cybercriminals are cultivating new techniques to circumvent them," said Steve Durbin, global vice president of the ISF. "Businesses of all sizes must prepare for the unknown so they have the flexibility to withstand unexpected, high impact security events." The top six threats identified by the ISF are not mutually exclusive and can combine to create even greater threat profiles. They are most certainly not the only threats that will emerge over the course of the next 12 months.

<http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=16033>

A School Shooting Every Two Weeks

Saturday, Dec. 14, is the one-year anniversary of the Newtown mass shooting, in which 27 people, including 20 children, were murdered. In the past year alone, a Daily Beast investigation by Brandy Zadrozny reveals that 24 school shootings have taken place. The shootings, which have gone largely unreported, killed at least 17 people but failed to inspire further efforts to rein in gun violence. Which begs the question: Has anything really changed?

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/12/12/the-school-shootings-you-didn-t-hear-about-one-every-two-weeks-since-newtown.html>

How to Protect Your Smartphone in Cold Weather

Smartphones are not built for the extreme cold. The smartphone screens depend on your body's ability to conduct electricity to work, and a thick insulating layer of wool prevents the screen from registering your taps and pokes. Some smartphones list the optimum range of temperatures in their technical specs

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/12/13/tech/mobile/cold-weather-phones/index.html>

Obama to Keep NSA, Cyber Command Under One Director

The Obama administration has decided to preserve an arrangement by which a single military official is the director of the National Security Agency and the military's Cyber Command. Obama's decision comes amid signs that the White House is not inclined to impose significant new restraints on the NSA's activities and favors maintaining an agency program that collects data on virtually every phone call that Americans make, although it is likely to impose additional privacy protection measures.

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/srcybersecurity20131217-obama-to-keep-nsa-cyber-command-under-one-director>

Major Gaps in Country's Ability to Counter Infectious Diseases

As concerns escalate over the disturbing growth of antibiotic resistant infectious diseases like Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), a new report by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation said "the nation's ability to prevent and control infectious disease outbreaks are hampered by outdated systems and limited resources."

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/12/16/mrsa-infection-community-schools-victims-doctors/3991833/>

Tens of Millions in Waste, Fraud and Abuse at DHS Cited in Annual Federal "Wastebook"

Roughly \$40 million spent by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in fiscal year 2013 is attributed to waste, abuse and outright fraud, according to the annual government "Wastebook" prepared by the office of Oklahoma Republican, Sen. Tom Coburn. In addition, tens of millions in Hurricane Sandy disaster relief aid given to New York and New Jersey under the Department of Housing and Urban Development was immediately used by the states on advertising to promote tourism. Coburn's annual Wastebook cited \$9 million in "overtime fraud" at DHS. "A recent report has alleged 'pervasive' overtime fraud and a 'gross waste of government funds' at the Department of Homeland Security," the Wastebook said. The fraud was documented by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency.

<http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/tens-of-millions-in-waste-fraud-and-abuse-at-dhs-cited-in-annual-federal-wastebook/d2cc572c55e8ed1725c7696052f3ed51.html>

Scientists: Mosquito Virus Spreads to Americas

A nasty virus first detected in Africa that is spread to people by the bite of infected mosquitoes is being locally transmitted in the Americas for the first time on the tiny French Caribbean dependency of St. Martin, health officials said Tuesday. Epidemiologists have so far confirmed about a dozen cases of locally acquired chikungunya virus in St. Martin, which shares a 34-square-mile (87-square-kilometer) island in the northeast Caribbean with the Dutch territory of St. Maarten. There are dozens more suspected cases.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CB_CARIBBEAN_MOSQUITO_VIRUS

FLU

Will You Get the Flu? This Real-time Flu Forecaster Could Tell You

Researchers at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health have devised a flu predictor that could pinpoint peak cases as much as nine weeks early. That could help to contain the yearly flood of influenza cases, which stretch from December to April and can surge unpredictably. Knowing when specific cities or regions might be hit especially hard could help people to be more vigilant about washing their hands, as well as allow doctors and public health officials to stockpile vaccines and other flu remedies

<http://healthland.time.com/2013/12/04/will-you-get-the-flu-this-real-time-flu-forecaster-could-tell-you/>

New Bird Flu Resists Drugs Without Losing Ability to Spread

Scientists have found that a mutation in a new strain of bird flu infecting people in China can render it resistant to a

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key first-line treatment drug without limiting its ability to spread in mammals.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/10/us-birdflu-drug-resistance-idUSBRE9B90RF20131210>

Tests Weigh Threat from Former H2N2 Pandemic Flu Virus

Experiments involving an avian H2N2 flu virus that caused a pandemic in the late 1950s and still circulates in birds found that it can infect mammalian cells and spread in ferrets, though it lacks the genetic markers for human adaptation, according to a study in the Journal of Virology. The goal was to assess the risk of the H2N2 virus, which hasn't been seen in humans since 1968. Researchers from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis analyzed 22 H2N2 viruses obtained from domestic and wild poultry from 1961 to 2008, the most comprehensive analysis so far of the virus. They found that the viruses haven't changed much since when H2N2 circulated as a pandemic strain. Most of the isolates they looked at replicated in mouse and human bronchial epithelial cells but showed little ability to replicate in swine tissues. Several isolates replicated well in ferrets, and three spread through direct contact in the animals. Researchers classified one of the three strains, which was isolated in 1979 from a duck in Hong Kong, as having high pandemic potential. But no ferret-transmissible H2N2 strains spread by the airborne route.

<http://www.stjude.org/webster-H2N2>

Hong Kong Initiates Border Monitoring, Quarantine Over H7N9 Case

Authorities are monitoring incoming travelers for disease and have quarantined 17 close contacts of the first H7N9 avian flu patient identified in Hong Kong, its Centre for Health Protection (CHP) said early this month in a statement. Officials identified 17 close contacts and more than 220 other contacts, the CHP statement said. The close contacts include 10 home contacts, including 4 with nonspecific symptoms, a friend who traveled to Shenzhen with the case-patient, and 6 patients who stayed in the same cubicle with the female 36-year-old H7N9 patient in Tuen Mun Hospital. The close contacts were prescribed the antiviral drug oseltamivir (Tamiflu) as a precaution, and all tested negative for H7N9 on preliminary lab tests. Asymptomatic close contacts will live in a designated quarantine village for 10 days since their last contact with the index patient, who is a domestic helper from Indonesia.

Hong Kong Government Statement:

http://www.news.gov.hk/en/categories/health/html/2013/12/20131204_140519.shtml

Large Trial Finds 55 Percent Efficacy for 4-strain Flu Vaccine in Kids

A study billed as the first large, randomized clinical trial of a quadrivalent (four-strain) influenza vaccine showed that GlaxoSmithKline's FluLaval Quadrivalent was about 55 percent efficacious in protecting children ages 3 to 8, similar to some previous findings for trivalent vaccines, according to a report published this week in the "New England Journal of Medicine." The trial also suggested that the vaccine was somewhat better at protecting children against "moderate to severe" flu, with an efficacy of more than 70 percent for such cases. But because of flu circulation patterns during the trial, it couldn't answer a key question about quadrivalent vaccines: whether they achieve the intended goal of improving protection against influenza B, compared with trivalent vaccines.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2013/12/large-trial-finds-55-efficacy-4-strain-flu-vaccine-kids>

New Report Highlights Benefits of Flu Vaccine

Flu vaccination prevented an estimated 6.6 million influenza-associated illnesses, 3.2 million medically attended illnesses and 79,000 hospitalizations during the 2012-2013 flu season, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). CDC also reported today that despite the benefits of flu vaccination, only 40 percent of Americans 6 months and older had reported getting a flu vaccine this season as of early November 2013. The estimated benefits of vaccination for the 2012-2013 season are higher than any other season for which CDC has produced similar estimates. These high numbers are attributable to the severity of the season. The report estimates that last season there were a total of 31.8 million influenza-associated illnesses, 14.4 million medically attended illnesses, and 381,000 hospitalizations in the United States.

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p1212-flu-vaccine.html>

ECDC Says Poultry H7N9 Circulation Poses Ongoing Threat

In an epidemiologic assessment on Dec. 20, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said that H7N9 avian flu in China continues to pose a significant health risk. The assessment takes into account 12 new

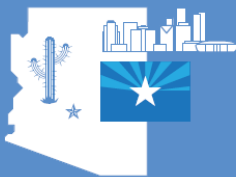
H7N9 cases that have been reported since October. Ten of them were in the previously affected provinces of Guangdong and Zhejiang, and two were imported cases from the mainland that were detected in Hong Kong. Most patients have had severe disease, and of 147 cases so far, 47 deaths have been reported, putting the case-fatality ratio at 32%, the ECDC said. The average age of the patients is 60 years, and 98 of the patients (67%) have been male. (The genders are unknown for five of the patients.) A few small clusters have been detected, but most cases have been sporadic with no obvious epidemiologic links. The ECDC said most of the case-patients had contact with poultry from live-bird markets, and that the most likely scenario is that zoonotic influenza is spreading in east China poultry. The ECDC said that if the virus persists in poultry, it poses a significant long-term threat to humans as a zoonotic virus or maybe a pandemic strain. It urged travelers to avoid live-bird markets and urges health officials to maintain their preparedness against the disease.

http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/press/news/layouts/forms/News_DispForm.aspx?List=8db7286c-fe2d-476c-9133-18ff4cb1b568&ID=930&RootFolder=%2Fen%2Fpress%2Fnews%2FLists%2FNews

the **benefits** of **vaccination**

The estimated number of influenza-associated illnesses prevented by flu vaccination during the 2012-2013 season:

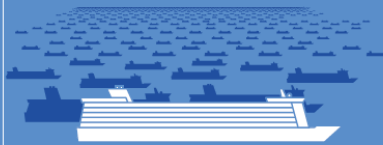
6.6 million



or the population of the state of **Arizona**

The estimated number of flu-associated medical visits prevented by vaccination during the 2012-2013 season:

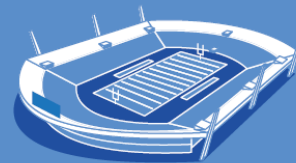
3.2 million



or the passengers of **1,067** mega cruise ships

The estimated number of flu hospitalizations prevented during the 2012-2013 season:

79,000



or all the fans in a **FULL** NFL stadium

get **vaccinated**

DATA: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), December 13, 2013.

www.cdc.gov/flu



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/images/p1212-flu-vaccine.pdf

Fairfax County Flu Preparedness

Be sure to visit the county's flu Web page for information and news on flu and flu preparedness.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu>

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TRAININGS / EXERCISES / CONFERENCES

9th Annual Counter IED Training Forum

Jan. 7-9, 2014; Washington, D.C.

Preparing Domestic and International Forces to Defeat IED Threats and Neutralize Insurgent Networks. IDGAs 9th Counter-IED Training Forum will provide a unique and intimate opportunity to focus on the pertinent aspects of this tremendous issue. This event will bring together the most influential and knowledgeable counter-IED experts, in order to discuss the future measures and strategies for protecting troops and civilians at home and around the world.

<http://www.counteriedsummit.com/default.aspx>

International Disaster Conference & Expo

Jan. 7-10, 2014; New Orleans, La.

The mission of the International Disaster Conference & Expo (IDCE) is to unite public and private sector professionals from around the world for discussions regarding policy, lessons learned, best practices and forward thinking, resulting in the mitigation of loss of life and property when catastrophic events occur. IDCE is the only event supported across such a broad spectrum of industry perspectives: Homeland Security, Emergency Management, Emergency Response, Disaster Recovery, Business Continuity, Resilience, Global Security, Large Loss / Claims, and more. IDCE2014 will present the most diverse and all-encompassing international audience this industry has ever witnessed in a single event. IDCE2014's reach into the international realm of public and private Disaster Preparation, Response, Recovery, and Mitigation will be unprecedented.

<http://internationaldisasterconference.com/>

2nd Annual Utility Cyber Security Conference

Jan. 14-16, 2014; Atlanta, Ga.

This event will build on the success and track record of the Marcus Evans Utility and Cyber Security events over the past several years, including last year's inaugural delivery. Conference speakers will address such topics as cyber security, information technology protection, smart-grid security, supervisory control and data acquisition security, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and critical infrastructure - and much more!

Information Sharing and Standards for Justice, Public Safety and Homeland Security

Jan. 15-17, 2014; Arlington, Va.

Since 9/11 the United States has strived to improve information sharing amongst agencies at all levels of government. Despite all of the progress that has been made, much is left to be done. Join the IJIS Institute National Symposium on "Information Sharing and Safeguarding for Justice, Public Safety and Homeland Security," to hear from government information technology (IT) leaders and experts on information sharing practices, technology and standards that will move information sharing along the road to greater adoption.

<https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=IJIS11E&OID=50>

American Society for Microbiology Biodefense & Emerging Diseases Research Meeting

Jan. 27-29, 2014; Washington, D.C.

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting brings together those who are carrying out research to defend against the growing threat of bioterrorism and the decision makers who are shaping the future biodefense-research agenda. ASM recognizes that emerging infectious diseases serve as a paradigm for handling the public threat of bioterrorism.

EMS Today 2014

Feb. 5-8, 2014; Washington, D.C.

EMS Today is a unique-and stimulating-experience for EMS personnel worldwide, and it is supported and fed by the credibility, quality and excellence of JEMS.

http://www.emstoday.com/index.html#showcase_3

National Tornado Summit

February 10-11, 2014; Oklahoma City, Okla.

The National Tornado Summit improves disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery in order to save lives and property in the United States. In addition, the summit serves as a national forum for insurance professionals and regulators as well as international, national and state experts to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve emergency management.

<http://www.tornadosummit.org/>

2014 AFCEA Winter Intelligence Symposium

Feb. 13, 2014; Laurel, Md.

In late 2012, the National Intelligence Council (NIC) published its Global Trends 2030 paper. The AFCEA Winter Intelligence Symposium will use the NIC paper as a starting point to explore the steps the Intelligence Community (IC) needs to take within the next decade to remain relevant.

<http://www.afcea.org/events/winterintel/14/welcome.asp>

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association 2014 Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium

Feb. 20-23, 2014; Virginia Beach, Va.

Save the date for the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association 2014 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium. The expo will feature a large exhibitor display, as well as educational sessions.

NHDF Global Forum

March 5-6, 2014; Washington, D.C.

The National Homeland Defense Foundation (NHDF) Global Forum is a thought leadership dialogue specifically designed to bring together Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, Department of State, Industry, and international partners to discuss, discover, and make a meaningful impact on the national security of our allies - current or future.

<http://www.nhdf.org/global-forum>

2014 AFCEA Homeland Security Conference

March 10-12, 2014; Washington, D.C.

The AFCEA Homeland Security Conference is the premier event in the National Capital area to learn about our nations most significant homeland security issues. The conference offers an opportunity for attendees to engage with key government and industry leaders on these critical issues. This year's theme is "4th Generation DHS: Remaining Ever-Vigilant."

<http://www.afcea.org/events/homeland/14/>

2014 Virginia Emergency Management Symposium (VEMA)

March 19-21, 2014; Hampton Roads, Va.

The theme for the 2014 VEMA symposium is "Emergency Management Today: Limited Resources, Complex Threats." Join 400+ participants including emergency managers, responders, law enforcement officers, public safety and hospital officials, and college/university representative.

<http://www.vemaweb.org/content/symposium2014/>

2014 Food Safety Summit

April 8-10, 2014; Baltimore, Md.

The Food Safety Summit is a solutions based conference and expo designed to meet the educational and information needs of the entire food industry. The summit attracts industry professionals to learn from expert speakers and trainers, exchange ideas, find solutions to your current job challenges, and engage in the valuable opportunities the summit has to offer.

<http://www.foodsafetysummit.com/>

IMPACT 2014

April 28-30, 2014; Westfields Marriott, Chantilly, Va.

NSI's annual IMPACT conference is essential for government and contractor security directors and managers responsible for protecting classified and sensitive information assets from a growing array of threats posed by espionage, terrorism, computer crime and information warfare.

<http://www.nsi.org/impact-2014.html>

The U.S. Cyber Crime Conference 2014

April 29-May 2, 2014; Leesburg, Va.

This event provides both hands-on digital forensics training and an interactive forum for cyber professionals to network. The conference covers the full spectrum of topics facing defenders as well as law enforcement responders. All aspects of computer crime will be covered, including intrusion investigations, cyber crime law, digital forensics, information assurance, along with research and development, and testing of digital forensic tools.

<http://www.usacybercrime.com/Home>

Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) 2014

April 30-May 03, 2014; Arlington, Va.

Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) has moved to Arlington. Come to the national capital region as FRM takes the attendee experience to the next level. Look for exciting new format changes including focused education tracks, new general session formats, new presenters and expo hall events that combine learning and networking.

<http://www.iafc.org/frm>

SPIE Defense + Security 2014

May 5-May 9, 2014; Baltimore, Md.

This long-standing symposium includes conferences and courses on infrared systems, lidar and radar, laser technology, image processing, data analysis, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance systems (ISR), display technologies, unmanned systems and robots, CBRNE, cyber sensing and security, biometric technology, law enforcement, energy harvesting, etc.

<http://spie.org/x94874.xml>

CPM 2014 Conference & Expo

May 12-14, 2014; Washington, D.C.

CPM East is the premier event for COOP/DR/BC and emergency response professionals looking for proven strategies and cost effective technology to achieve your mission of preparing and planning for emergencies and disruptions of operations including response and recovery.

<http://contingencyplanning.com/events/cpm-2014/home.aspx>

GovSec 2014-Government Security Conference and Expo

May 12-May 14, 2014; Washington, D.C.

GovSec is the nations premier event for Government, Homeland Security, and Law Enforcement professionals looking for proven strategies and cost effective technology so they can achieve their mission of protecting our critical infrastructures, key assets, communities and the nation. This year's conference tracks include: Counter & Anti-Terrorism, Critical Infrastructure & Secured Cities, Cybercrime & Cyberterrorism, Campus Security & Life Safety, and Law Enforcement Strategies & Tactics.

<http://govsecinfo.com/events/govsec-2014/home.aspx>

FOSE 2014

May 13-15, 2014; Washington, D.C.

FOSE is the nation's premier event for government technology professionals seeking tools and best practices to equip their agency for the 21st century. From policy updates - straight from the hill - to exclusive insights from today's leading authorities, as well as the most comprehensive showcase of technology in action.

<http://fose.com/Events/Government-Technology/Home.aspx>

2014 National Homeland Security Conference

May 19-22, 2014; Philadelphia, Penn.

The National Homeland Security Association sponsors the National Homeland Security Conference, which is the annual meeting of local homeland security and emergency management professionals from the nations largest metropolitan areas. This conference focuses on all emergency response disciplines at all levels of government.

<http://nationaluasi.com/dru/>

International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference & Expo 2014

May 29-June 1, 2014; Baltimore, Md.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Hazmat Conference provides the latest classroom, hands-on, and field trip-based training covering all aspects of hazmat - specifically including such topics as transportation, safety, weapons of mass destruction, protective gear and equipment, terrorism, mass decontamination, bioterrorism, and more.

<http://www.iafc.org/hazmat>

National Capital Region Homeland Security Events

http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/events_homeland.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=134

Virginia Emergency Management Courses

<http://www.vaemergency.com>

FEMA Independent Study Courses

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

American Red Cross Disaster Services Training

http://www.redcrossnca.org/Online/disaster_registration.php

LINKS

Fairfax County Web Resources

- Fairfax County Emergency Information Blog - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog
- Fairfax County Emergency Information Web page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/
- Fairfax County CERT - <http://fairfaxcountycert.blogspot.com/>
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web Page - www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/
- Fairfax County Citizen Corps Blog - <http://citizencorps.blogspot.com/>

Additional Web Resources

- Capital Region Updates - www.CapitalRegionUpdates.gov
- Virginia Citizen Corps - www.vaemergency.com/citcorps/index.cfm

DHS Science & Technology Directorate Newsletter

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate has a free newsletter, "S&T Snapshots," featuring stories about current research projects and opportunities with laboratories, universities, government agencies, and the private sector. The newsletter is produced monthly by the DHS Science and Technology Directorate in partnership with the Homeland Security Institute, a Studies and Analysis Federally Funded Research and Development Center.

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report (OSIR)

The Department of Homeland Security provides a Web-based “Daily OSIR,” which is posted on the DHS public Web site. Accessing the report via the Web enables readers to retrieve the current Daily Report as well as 10 days of archived DHS Daily Reports. Once you arrive at the Web page you will find the most recent Daily OSIR at the top of the page, under the title “Current Report.” This report is posted each morning, except for weekends and holidays. Simply click on the title “DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report.” This will launch the current days report in PDF format. You can submit content comments or make suggestions by contacting the DHS Daily Report Team by telephone at 202-312-3421 or by e-mail at NICCRports@dhs.gov. You can access the Daily OSIR at: http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/editorial_0542.shtm.

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/infoline.htm

Emergency Management Magazine

<http://www.govtech.com/em/toc.php>

FEMA Private Sector

<http://www.fema.gov/privatesector/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY 703-817-7771
EMERGENCY
INFORMATION LINE

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To Unsubscribe:

E-mail publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov with “Remove from ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update” in the subject line and you will be immediately removed from the distribution list.

In accordance with NIMS – the National Incident Management System – the Fairfax County Emergency Operations Plan states that Emergency Support Function 15 (External Affairs) is led by the Office of Public Affairs. This ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update is part of the county's outreach efforts for our business and nonprofit partners as a way to provide information about the county's ESF 15, Homeland Security and emergency management.

Please feel free to forward this ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update to other contacts you have inside or outside your organization. Should someone you know like to be added to our distribution list, have them send an e-mail to jim.person@fairfaxcounty.gov and ask to be subscribed to the ESF 15 Business/Nonprofit Update.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this update or other communications between Fairfax County and the business/nonprofit community, please contact Merni Fitzgerald, Director of the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs, at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or by e-mail at merni.fitzgerald@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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